

Message Text

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14

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 USIA-06 FBO-02 A-01 /030 W

----- 081293

R 110800Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 467

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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DEPT FOR NEA/EX AND A/SY/FO

BEIRUT FOR RSS AND RMO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, MILI

SUBJ: T.O. INCREASE

REF: (A) STATE 240002

(B) RSO TUNIS OPERATIONS MEMO DATED 8/8/75

(C) TUNIS 5808

(D) TUNIS 5632

(E) TUNIS 6073

(F) TUNIS 6533

1. RSO IN SOMEWHAT OF A QUANDRY AS TO WHAT CONSTITUTES ADEQUATE JUSTIFICATION FOR T.O. INCREASE. MSG COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS TO PROVIDE AN ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF SECURITY HAVE BEEN STUDIED IN DEPTH BY RSO AND SUGGESTION SET FORTH REF (A), PARA 3, TO PROVIDE ONE WATCHSTANDER IN LIEU OF THREE WOULD NOT SATISFY NEED FOR RESPONSE REACTION CAPABILITY AS DESCRIBED REFS (B) AND (C).

2. ONE ADDITIONAL WATCHSTANDER TO PERFORM DUTIES AS SUGGESTED REF (A), PARA 3, WOULD PROVIDE MONITORING CAPABILITY OF COMMUNICATION AND SECURITY SYSTEMS ON A 24-HR BASIS. ASSUMING THAT MSGS WOULD WORK 8 HOUR SHIFTS, THIS WOULD STILL NEGATE USEFULNESS AND PURPOSE OF SECURITY SYSTEMS

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FOR 33-1/3 PERCENT OF ANY 24 HOUR PERIOD. IF DEPT IS

PROPOSING THAT POST #2 BE A 12- HR POST, RSO FEELS THIS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO MORALE AND EFFICIENCY OF DETACHMENT, AS WATCHSTANDERS WOULD BE WORKING A 48-HR WEEK OR 53.4 HRS PER WEEK WITH 1/9 FACTOR. THIS WOULD BE IN EXCESS OF NORMAL WORK OF 40-45 HOURS PER WEEK SET FORTH PSO HANDBOOK, PARA 3.5B(3).

3. MISSION MUST HAVE CAPABILITY TO RESPOND TO ALARMS AND OTHER SECURITY PROBLEMS OUTSIDE OF CHANCERY. THERE ARE WITHIN THE CHANCERY COMPOUND THREE MAJOR ANNEXES, ONE OF WHICH (B&F) IS PRESENTLY EQUIPPED WITH AN ALARM AND ANOTHER WILL BE INSTALLED IN RTC AREA IF ESTABLISHED. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE THREE INSTALLATIONS (AID, USIS AND AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE) WHICH ARE SOME DISTANCE FROM THE CHANCERY. RESPONSE TIMES DUE TO DISTANCE RANGE FROM THREE MINUTES TO AID TO 20 MINUTES TO AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. ALL ARE VULNERABLE AND REQUIRE A CAPABILITY FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM PERSONNEL OR LOCAL GUARDS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

4. IN RESPONSE TO REF (A), PARA 4, NO OTHER OPTIONS ARE NECESSARY IN THE EVENT RTC IS ESTABLISHED IN TUNIS. AS IS SET FORTH REF (D), PARA 1, AND REF (E), PARA 4, THE DECENTRALIZATION OF THE RTC BEIRUT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF AN RTC IN TUNIS IS DEPENDENT RPT DEPENDENT UPON THE MSG DETACHMENT BEING RELOCATED IN THE TOP AND ONE HALF (5TH AND 4TH) FLOORS OF PRESENT AID BUILDING. REMAINDER OF THE FOURTH FLOOR WILL BE UTILIZED AS RTC. MSG PRESENCE WILL PROVIDE ADDED SECURITY FOR RTC AREA. HOWEVER, IF MSG DETACHMENT NOT RELOCATED AS RECOMMENDED REFS (D) AND (E), OWNER WILL RENT REMAINING SPACE NOT UTILIZED BY RTC TO NON-U.S. GOVERNMENT TENANT. THIS WOULD POSE EXTREME SECURITY THREAT TO SENSITIVE RTC OPERATION AND WOULD PROBABLY ELIMINATE TUNIS AS A SUITABLE LOCATION AS NO OTHER SPACE IS AVAILABLE.

5. IF RTC DOES NOT OCCUPY SPACE (HALF FOURTH FLOOR) AND MSGS ARE RELOCATED PER REF (F), AID HAS AGREED TO REATIN THIS SPACE RATHER THAN HAVE NON-U.S. GOVERNMENT TENANT WHICH WOULD CAUSE MANY ADDITIONAL SECURITY RISKS AND PROBLEMS.

6. A/SY/FO AND RMO HAVE FOR SEVERAL YEARS STATED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT MARINE HOUSE IS INADEQUATE FOR PRESENT T.O. TWO MSGS ARE NOW DOUBLED UP, ELECTRICAL WIRING IS INADEQUATE, AVAILABILITY OF ONLY TWO SHOWERS AND A MYRIAD OF OTHER COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN LODGED IN EVERY RMO INSPECTION REPORT. IN RESPONSE TO DEPT'S QUESTION POSED REF (A), PARA 4, "COULD ANOTHER BEDROOM BE CONSTRUCTED," THE ANSWER IS NEGATIVE FOR TWO REASONS. THERE IS NO SPACE AVAILABLE FOR INTERIOR REMODELING AND A RENOVATION OF THIS TYPE WOULD

BE IN VIOLATION OF 6 FAM REGARDING MINOR IMPROVEMENTS ON
SHORT TERM LEASES AND THE EXISTING LEASE IS SHORT TERM.
THIS WOULD NECESSITATE USE OF U.S. FUNDS, AS LANDLORD
REFUSES TOMAKE ANY IMPROVEMENTS AT HIS EXPENSE.

7. OVER PAST YEAT MISSION HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO IMPROVE
EXISTING LIVING QUARTERS FOR THIS DETACHMENT AND PER THE
DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS HAS ATTEMPTED TO LOCATE A BUILDING SITE
OR RENT MORE ADEQUATE QUARTERS FOR THE MSGS USE. THE RSO
HAS PROPOSED A SOLUTION TO SATISFY BOTH SY'S NEED FOR AN
RTC LOCATION AND AT THE SAME TIME AMELIORATE THE MSG'S
LIVING CONDITIONS AND IMPROVE THE OVERALL SECURITY F THE
MISSION. THESE PROPOSALS WILL SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND SY/FO AND NEA/EX ARE THREFORE
URGED TO APPROVE ASAP THE REQUESTED INCREASE OF THREE MSGS
AND PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE MSG DETACHMENT.
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